

FROM CAMBODIA TO GREENSBORO

by Guest Curator Barbara Lau, Duke University Center for Documentary Studies

So we come to America, and we have nothing. We carry nothing with us from Cambodia. All that we have is our selves and our culture. What can we give back to America? What can we show Americans about us? Like try to teach that we're more than just refugees, or that we're more than just immigrants. You know, that we have more than just the Khmer Rouge to make us important in this world. – Ran Kong

The first Cambodian refugees arrived in Greensboro in 1983, forced to flee from the devastation of war and the violence of the genocidal Khmer Rouge. Cambodia, like its neighbors, became embroiled in the war in Vietnam. The region became a battlefield for the conflict between ideas about democracy and communism. Dozens of Khmer families left refugee camps along the border of



Phal Sum and his young son lead a procession at the annual Kathin ceremony at the Greensboro Buddhist Center.

Cambodia & Thailand

to find new homes in Greensboro. With the help of resettlement agencies like Lutheran Family Services, they found homes and jobs, enrolled in English classes, registered their children for school, and soon managed to buy cars and houses. They now call North Carolina home.

Over the past 20 years, generations of Khmer community members have had to forge new identities. They seek to embrace American ways without sacrificing their own ancient culture and traditions. Community members established the Greensboro Buddhist Center in 1986 as both a place of worship and fellowship. Here, elders teach the children about traditional dance and music, rites of passage, religion and the foodways central to Cambodian Khmer culture. These new North Carolinians contribute to the American mosaic, adding their stories, their knowledge, and their insights to our understanding of the American experience.

"From Cambodia to Greensboro: Tracing the Journeys of New North Carolinians," a first of its kind collaboration organized by Curator of Collections Jon Zachman with the Duke University Center for Documentary Studies, Greensboro Buddhist Temple, and over a dozen local agencies, opens December 7 and will be on view through 2005. It includes a Buddhist altar, oral histories, dance costumes, cultural objects and photographs by Cedric Chatterley. Cambodian community members will lead the opening day celebration with a religious blessing and classical dance performances.



Vandy Chhum and Ran Kong carry on the Cambodian Khmer classical dance tradition.

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Blandwood Guild

Guild Donates \$1000 in Honor of Director Bill Moore

"From its beginning the Guild has played an important role in the stature and development of the Museum. I am deeply honored by this generous donation in my name and I am further honored to be associated with this fine organization."

Bill Moore

SHOP MANAGER TO RETIRE

Did you know that the most popular activities for tourists is shopping? Museum visitors certainly enjoy it, thanks to the talent and expertise of shop Manager Betty Montgomery, who built our shop from a small corner space into a sales gallery many folks have trouble leaving.



Adding Seagrove pottery was one of Betty Montgomery's brainstorm, but she also introduced other strong sellers including vintage jewelry, specialty books, and old-fashioned decorations.

Betty joined the staff in 1976, eager to work with the volunteers who had founded what was then called the Shoppe. She soon used her retail know-how to develop new lines of merchandise beyond postcards and small souvenirs. Adding pottery from Jugtown and other Seagrove potters has proved to be one her most successful ventures - and what's more, the area potters have only positive feelings about what it has been like to work with Betty. Fellow professionals in the national Museum Store Association share that regard, having elected Betty to numerous offices over the years.

Customers and fellow staff members alike will find it hard to say goodbye to someone who has always gone the extra mile, whether it be helping with purchases, designing displays, or planning a special event. Betty's last day as Shop Manager will be November 26, but she will work through the holidays as a sales assistant. We are glad that she'll have more time to enjoy her other interests - volunteering at Horsepower, cooking gourmet recipes, and gardening, and wish Betty many happy years to come.

WORLD WAR II MUSIC ...



Never before had popular songs been so direct an expression of the mood of America than during World War II: stirring patriotic anthems, comic takes on military life, and love ballads that ache with longing. They conjure up the attitudes,

beliefs, values, and dreams of a people during an amazing time in their history. They are among our most memorable songs. Make your reservation today for the **2003 John Floy Wicker Memorial Lecture, "Walking Alone: The Songs of World War II"** with music historian Michael Lasser on **Sunday, November 9 at 2 p.m.** Call 373-2043 for free reservations for this series event made possible through the generous gift of Mrs. Ruth Wicker.

AND A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS SHOW!



Terry Borton of the American Magic-Lantern Theatre



The **John Dortch Memorial Series** proudly presents an 1890s Magic-Lantern visual extravaganza projected on a full-sized screen – the kind of show that led to the movies. On-screen

stories, comedy and carols, are dramatized by a live showman and singer/pianist. The audience participates, creating sound effects, and joining in chants and sing-alongs. *National Public Radio* says it best: "It's an incredible experience ... don't miss them." Start the holiday season in high style on **Sunday, November 16** by attending the 2 or 3:30 p.m. show. Call 373-2043 for tickets at \$5 for members, \$7.50 for non-members, and \$5 for children.

SCOTS-IRISH MUSICAL LEGACY AT ANNUAL MEETING

There are a number of reasons why you won't want to miss the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 18. There are the obvious and serious reasons - Director Bill Moore's last such meeting before his retirement, and the election of officers and trustees. And then there are the four entertaining reasons - members of Gaelwynd, a talented group of professional musicians who will perform traditional Celtic music. You'll hear jigs, reels, and waltzes that would have been very familiar to the Scots-Irish immigrants who moved to Guilford County over two hundred years ago. Dinner reservations (\$35 per person) should be mailed to Mrs. Gary Lee, 7 Lake Forest Ct., 27408 by November 14.



Gaelwynd (l-r Nora Garver, Caite McKinney, Bill Smith, & Fred McKinney) has customized their playlist to connect to our county's Scots-Irish heritage

THANKS TO GRANTING AGENCIES FOR "FROM CAMBODIA TO GREENSBORO"

Cemala Foundation ~ The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro ~ Hillsdale Fund ~ Museum Shop ~ North Carolina Arts Council ~ North Carolina Humanities Council

and of course thanks to you, our members, whose contributions are funding exhibition construction



130 SUMMIT AVENUE

GREENSBORO, N.C. 27401-3016

MUSEUM HOURS

Tues-Sat 10-5

Sun 2-5

Free Admission

TELEPHONE

336-373-2043

FAX

336-373-2204

MUSEUM SHOP

336-373-2949

WEB ADDRESS

www.greensborohistory.org

Linda Evans, *Journal Editor*

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MUSEUM EVENTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Sunday, November 9 at 2 p.m.

JOHN FLOY WICKER MEMORIAL SERIES

WALKING ALONE: THE MUSIC OF WORLD WAR II

Music historian Michael Lasser ~ Call 373-2043 for
free reservations

Sunday, November 16 at 2 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

JOHN DORTCH MEMORIAL SERIES

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS MAGIC-LANTERN SHOW

Members \$5, Non-member Adults \$7.50, Children \$5

Call 373-2043 for tickets

Monday, November 17 at 10 a.m.

GUILD MEETING

"Behind the Shop Counter" with Betty Montgomery

Tuesday, November 18 at 6 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Celtic music performed by Gaelwynd ~ Election of Officers
Greensboro Country Club ~ \$35 per person ~ Reservations
due by November 14

Friday, November 21 from 5 - 9 p.m.

ARTS ALIVE: MUSEUM SHOP & GALLERIES OPEN

Thursday & Friday November 27-28

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Sunday, December 7 from 2 - 5 p.m.

"FROM CAMBODIA TO GREENSBORO" OPENS

2:30 Blessing Ceremony by Greensboro Buddhist Temple

3:00 Classical Dance performances

3:30 Exhibition viewing & Cambodian desserts

Thursday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.

GUILD HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Greensboro Country Club with the Kernodle Chorus ~

Call Sara Stuart for reservation information at 545-9490

Thursday & Friday December 25-26

MUSEUM CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY